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Mukluks
Moccasins
Mittens
and
More

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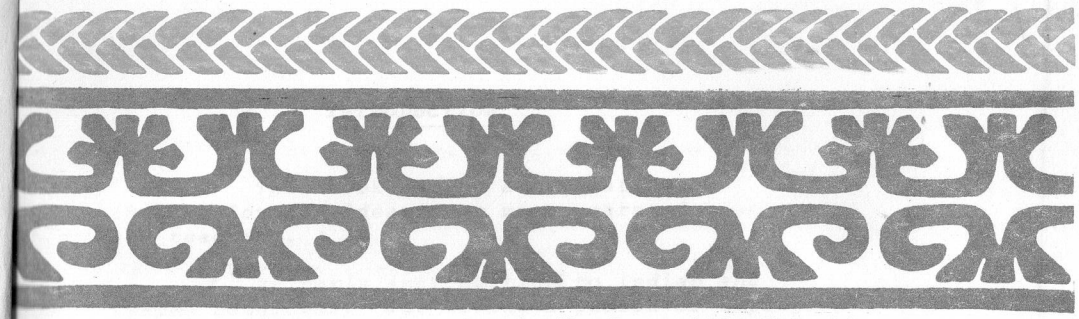
by

mary sustrik

JAN 2003



Mukluks Moccasins Mittens and More

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INTRODUCTION

This book is the accumulation of information and ideas over many years of study and teaching.

An early introduction to Indian and Eskimo handicraft came during a period of employment at the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital. At that time, the native people hospitalized there were involved with the production of mukluks, moccasins, mittens and gloves. The beadwork was particularly intriguing and led to personal experiments with beadwork on clothing.

Later there was an elderly gentleman who came from a local reserve to have my husband prepare soapstone for use in the creation of peace pipes. Sometimes he had to wait for the soapstone and he was always happy to show me his beaded jackets and moccasins and to explain something of the old ways in making mukluks and moccasins.

Finally, there came the day when I was asked to teach classes in mukluks. Mukluks led to moccasins which led to mittens and beading had an early place of importance in all this. With constant classes and questions from students, a great file of information was accumulated which included instructions on beading, patterns for mukluks, moccasins, mittens and many others.

This then is the reason for this book. It hopefully contains much of the information and many of the ideas passed on by the people from the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital and my old Indian friend. It is anticipated that this will be a useful guide to those who are anxious to make their own mukluks, moccasins or mittens from moosehide, deerskin or other. Instructions have been written as explicitely as possible to allow those who need detailed instruction to follow through step by step.

I hope it is found to be useful in demonstrating how simple it is to use moosehide and deerskin in the formation of many items for family or friends.

The patterns offered are all derived from the genuine Indian or Eskimo patterns. As such, it is necessary to form patterns for each size individually although, if you have two children each taking a size six, you may find that one mukluk pattern will suffice.

The patterns fall under the heading of "ethnic" patterns and considerable leeway is allowed in adjusting them to fit.

Mukluks can be worn outside in snow conditions. They wear very well through the heavy snow but try to avoid walking on cement or gravel. This will cause the sole to wear through very quickly. Should this happen, ask the shoemaker to sew on an extra sole.

Do not wear them in wet conditions. Although they may be waterproofed with those products available on the market, they were intended for snow not rain.

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BASIC MUKLUKS

MAKING THE PATTERN:

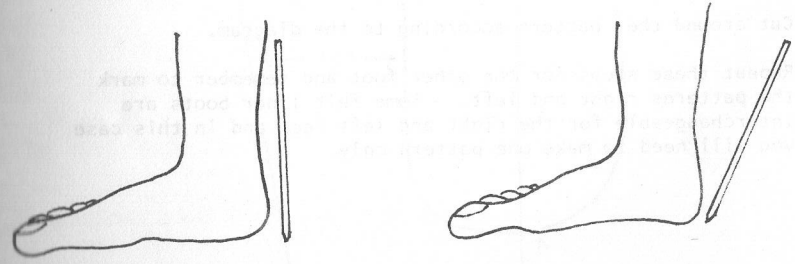
Mukluk patterns can be made for use with a pair of felt liner boots although these are not always necessary. You may prefer to wear your mukluks over a pair of heavy socks. In either case, measure your pattern to your own personal preference.

If you are using a felt boot as a liner and therefore measuring from this, you may find it of some help to stuff the felt boot with crumpled newspaper. This helps the boot to retain its shape and makes the measuring a little easier.

Patterns are usually interchangeable for either the right or the left foot. For most people this makes little difference but problems may be encountered occasionally when a difference in foot size requires separate patterns for each. If this occurs, measure each separately and individually and do remember to mark the patterns for the right or the left foot.

Sole Pattern:

Place the foot (or the felt boot) on a piece of brown paper. An old grocery bag will serve the purpose very well. Trace around the foot or boot. While doing this, keep the pencil at right angles to the paper. If the pencil is turned in too closely around the foot, the pattern may be too small.



1. Draw a line through the centre of the pattern, from the toe to the heel, calling this line A - B.

2. Draw a line at right angles to A-B, 3/4" behind the heel. Call this line C - D.

3. A line E - F is needed at the highest point of the instep. If you are unsure of what is meant by the 'highest' part of the instep, consider which part of the foot sticks a little when you pull on a pair of cowboy boots. It is the area in front of the foot and is the highest part of the instep.

   As a general rule this line is approximately 2/5 of the distance from the toe to the heel but each person must be measured individually.

   When you have found the highest point of the instep, draw the line E-F, bisecting the line A-B.

4. Measure $1\frac{1}{4}$" from the toe and mark this.

5. Measure 1 & 3/4" from the side of the foot, on the line E-F and mark this.

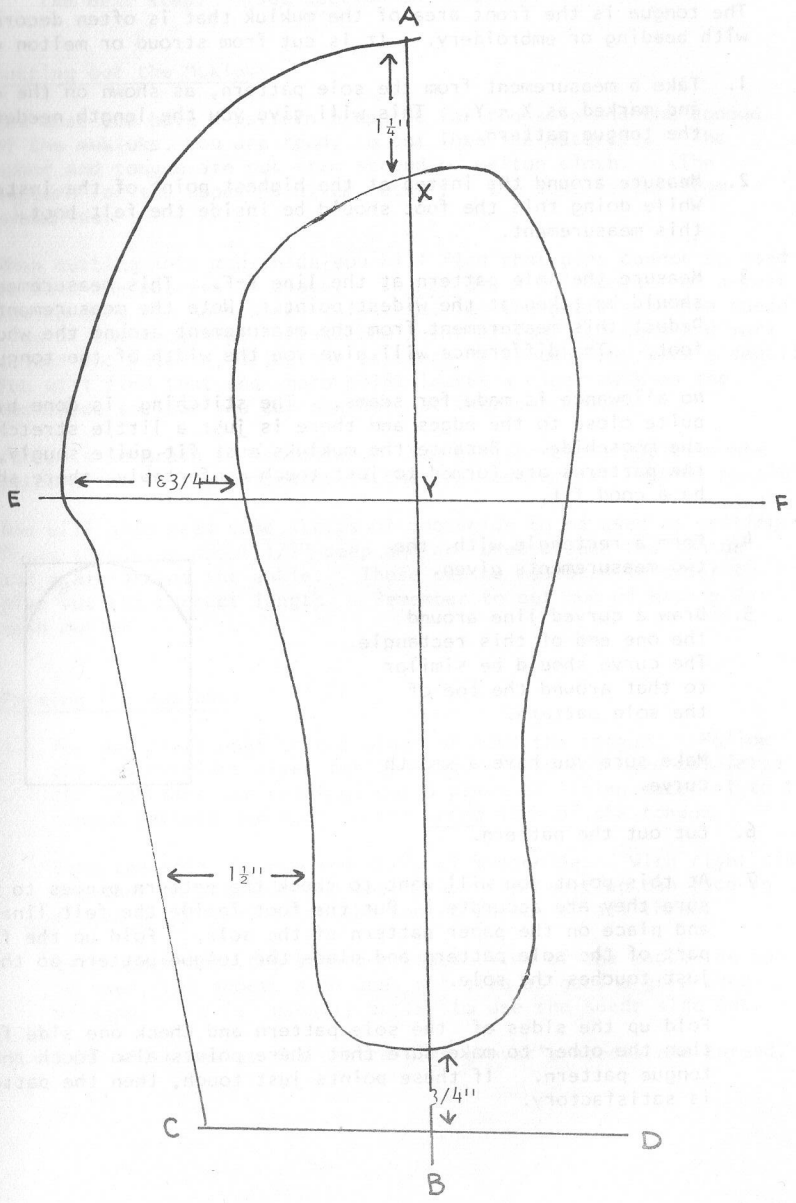
6. Measure $1\frac{1}{2}$" from the heel area and mark this.

7. Draw a curved line around the toe area, increasing to 1 & 3/4" at the side of the foot, curving in again to $1\frac{1}{2}$" then going straight to bisect the line C-D behind the heel.

   DO NOT CURVE BEHIND THE HEEL. The line is drawn straight as shown on the sketch on the following page. If you follow the steps outlined one by one and check with the sketch given, you should encounter no problems.

8. Cut around the pattern according to the diagram.

   Repeat these steps for the other foot and remember to mark the patterns right and left. Some felt liner boots are interchangeable for the right and left feet and in this case you will need to make one pattern only.



Tongue Pattern:

The tongue is the front area of the mukluk that is often decorated with beading or embroidery. It is cut from stroud or melton cloth.

1. Take a measurement from the sole pattern, as shown on the diagram and marked as X - Y. This will give you the length needed for the tongue pattern.

2. Measure around the instep at the highest point of the instep. While doing this the foot should be inside the felt boot. Note this measurement.

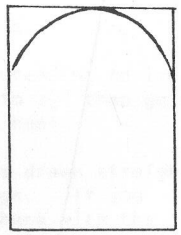
3. Measure the sole pattern at the line E-F. This measurement should be taken at the widest point. Note the measurement. Deduct this measurement from the measurement around the whole foot. The difference will give you the width of the tongue.

   No allowance is made for seams. The stitching is done by hand quite close to the edges and there is just a little stretch in the moosehide. Because the mukluks must fit quite snugly, if the patterns are formed to just touch confortably, there should be a good fit.

4. Form a rectangle with the two measurements given.

5. Draw a curved line around the one end of this rectangle. The curve should be similar to that around the toe of the sole pattern.

   Make sure you have a smooth curve.



6. Cut out the pattern.

7. At this point you will want to check the pattern pieces to make sure they are accurate. Put the foot inside the felt liner boot and place on the paper pattern of the sole. Fold up the front part of the sole pattern and place the tongue pattern so that it just touches the sole.

   Fold up the sides of the sole pattern and check one side first, then the other to make sure that these points also touch the tongue pattern. If these points just touch, then the pattern is satisfactory.

8. At this stage you may want to bead or embroider the tongue. Complete the beading or embroidery before continuing with the next step. (See section on beading.)

Cutting out the Mukluks:

Now that you have a pattern prepared for the sole and the tongue of the mukluks, you are ready to cut into the material. The upper and tongue are cut from stroud or melton cloth. (The pattern for the upper is given later.) The sole is cut from moosehide.

When cutting into moosehide you will find that pins cannot be used to hold the pattern in place. Do not use a ball point or a felt pen to mark the moosehide. Instead, lay the pattern on the suede side of the moosehide. Take the point of your scissors and mark around the pattern, using the scissors as though they were a pencil. You will find that the sharp point leaves a clear mark on the moosehide so that you can now cut out your pattern.

There is no grain to moosehide. You can therefore position the pattern to use the moosehide in the most economical fashion possible.

You will also need some strips of moosehide to be used as welting. These should be about 1/3" deep and are used around the tongue and again around the ankle. These can be measured in order to give you the correct length. Remember to cut two of each - for each mukluk.

Forming the Mukluks:

1. You may first want to embroider or bead the tongue. Follow the instructions given for beading. When you have completed the embroidery or beading, cut a piece of lining material to the tongue pattern and tack to the wrong side of the tongue.

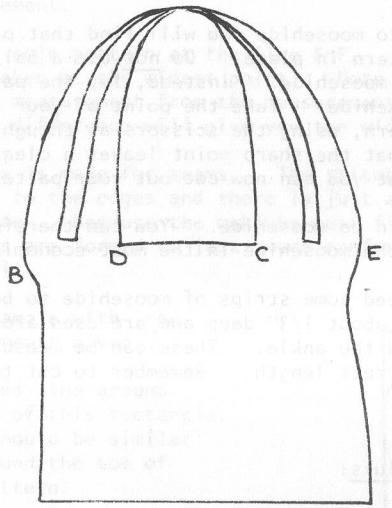
2. Take the sole, tongue and strip of moosehide. With right sides together on the sole and the tongue (the welting can face in either direction) match the centre points of all three.

   Although either the smooth or suede side of the moosehide can be used, the smooth side does not give as good a grip when walking. It is usually better to use the suede side out.

3. Tack all three at the centre with glover's needle and thread.

4. Tack the tongue, strip of moosehide and the sole together at the sides, matching B and D, C and E. The sole is gathered around the tongue but the strip of moosehide is not gathered and should lie smoothly.

   The fullest part of the sole should joint the corners of the tongue.



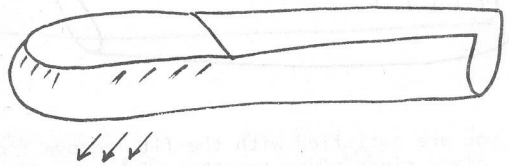
5. With the tongue facing you, begin sewing at the centre point.

   Since moosehide cannot be gathered in the usual fashion, you must ease or gather as you stitch. There should be more gathers or fullness at the front than at the sides. A general rule is that, working from the centre point to the side, one third should be fully gathered, one third should be gently gathered and one third should be eased only. However, this will depend greatly on the side of the mukluks. Children's sizes will often have to be gathered all the way around while adults will only need gathers at the toe area.

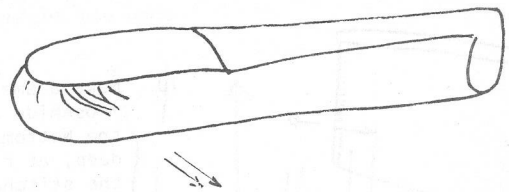
You may find you need to use a thimble when sewing this. An elastic band around the thimble will assist you in pulling the needle through the moosehide. Or, you can work with a small block of wood or piece of moosehide to help you push the needle through.

6. When you have completed one side, start again at the centre and stitch the other side in a similar fashion. Try to have the gathers in approximately the same place on both sides of the mukluks.

7. Try the mukluk on the foot or over the felt boot. At this point you can determine if the gathers have been placed correctly.



By examing the line of the gathers, it is noted that insufficient gathers have been made at the toe area and too many at the side.

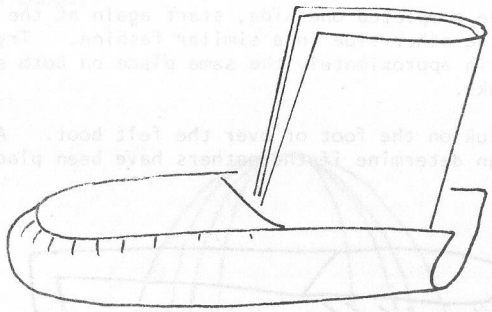


Again, the line of the gathers shows that too much fulness has been allowed at the front of the mukluk and insufficent allowed at the sides.

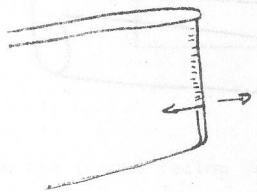
If you have encountered a problem with the gathers, cut them apart and try again.

Remember that when sewing moosehide a leather needle must be used. This leather needle is very sharp and care must be exercised when using same. Also note that if backstitching, care must be taken not to stitch in the same hole as a previous stitch. Otherwise the leather needle may cut the thread.

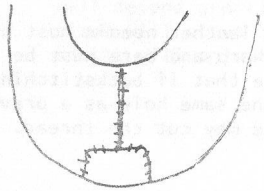
8. Try the mukluk base over the felt boot and check the fit. Pull it firmly into place. The two sides should just touch at the back of the felt boot. Pull the base firmly into place. The base will probably be too long. Cut off the excess moosehide so that the sides just meet each other.



9. When you are satisfied with the fit, remove from the felt boot, place right sides together with a strip of the moosehide welting in between and, with an overcast stitch, fasten together. Start sewing from the top and stop 3/4" from the bottom.



10. Make a small cut in the moosehide about 3/4" from the bottom, and about 3/4" deep, at right angles to the stitched edge.

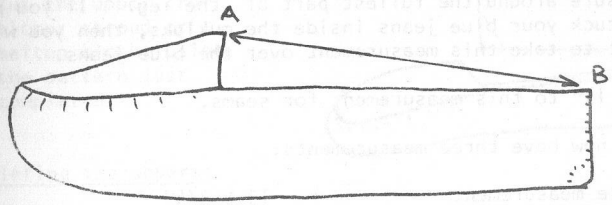


11. Turn the lip formed to the right side and sew into place. You may want to round the corners of this flap before stitching.

12. You are now ready to make the pattern for the uppers.

Upper Pattern:

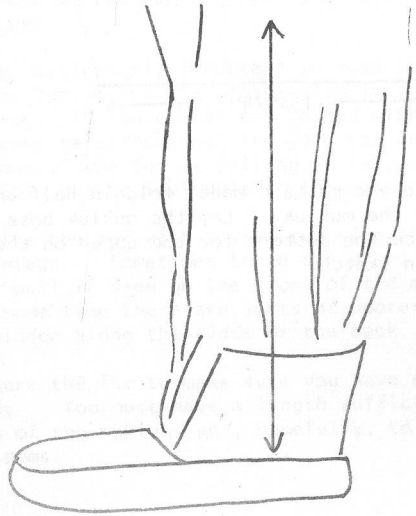
1. Lay the sole of the mukluk flat on the table and measure from point A to point B. Multiply this measurement by two and add 3/4" for seams.



e.g. A - B = 6½"
Multipy by two = 13"
Add 3/4" seam = 13 & 3/4"

Ankle measurement = 13 & 3/4"

2. Place the felt boot, with the sole of the mukluk on your foot. Now measure the height you want the mukluk. Start the tape at the upper edge of the mukluk sole and measure to the height you want.



Although most people want the mukluk to come up right under the knee cap, there are some who only want them to mid calf.

You will also find a considerable variance in the length of leg from one person to another.

Add 1/3" to this measurement for seams.

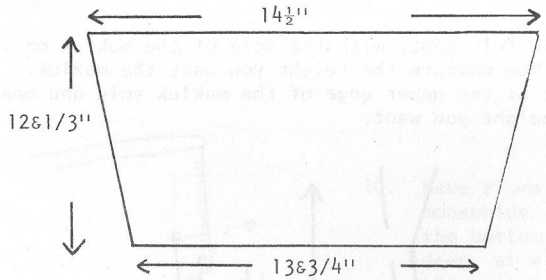
3. Measure around the fullest part of the leg. If you plan to tuck your blue jeans inside the mukluks, then you will want to take this measurement over the blue jeans.

   Add 1½" to this measurement for seams.

4. You now have three measurements:

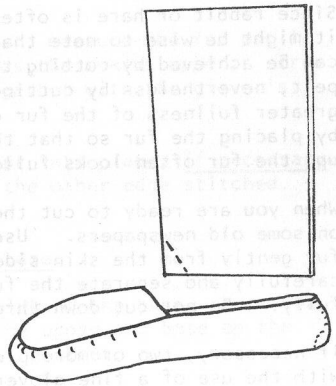
Ankle measurement	=	13 & 3/4"
Height	=	12" + 1/3"
Leg measurement	=	13" + 1½"

   Taking a piece of brown paper, measure out a pattern following these measurements.



5. Now that you have the pattern made, fold in half and check with the base of the mukluk. Lay the mukluk base flat on the table. Place the pattern for the upper on the table also, as shown in sketch.

Cut away the triangle piece of material from the folded edge of the pattern. The pattern should now fit snugly against the base of the mukluk.



6. Cut the upper from either stroud or melton cloth, using the pattern just completed.

Completing the uppers:

Any trims to be used on the uppers should be attached before sewing the upper to the base of the mukluk.

The trims used can include beading, embroidery, fur and/or braid. If embroidery or beading is used, make sure the pattern is centred and make allowance for the back seam.

Notes on the use of fur:

1. Fur grows in a particular direction. Check your direction first by brushing your hand across the fur from several different angles. When you have established the direction of the fur, mark this on the back of the fur by drawing arrows with a fine felt pen.

   It is particularly important to note the direction of the fur if you are planning to join one or more pieces. If two pieces are joined with the fur falling in opposite directions, the join can be very obvious whereas if the fur is falling in the same direction, the join can be invisible to the naked eye.

2. Examine the fur with a view to using it to its best advantage. Sometimes there are areas that will look very well if seen on the front of the mukluk, while at the same time there are spots or poorer areas that could be hidden along the sides or the back.

3. Measure the fur to make sure you have sufficient for your needs. You must have a length sufficient to go around both of the mukluks and, hopefully, to make the furry pom poms.

Since rabbit or hare is often used for trimming mukluks, it might be wise to note that although the greatest length can be achieved by cutting the skin down the length of the pelt, nevertheless by cutting across the width of the pelt, greater fullness of the fur can often be achieved. Also, by placing the fur so that the direction of the fur faces up, the fur often looks fuller.

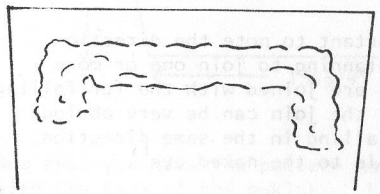
4. When you are ready to cut the fur, lay a pelt, skin side up, on some old newspapers. Use a razor blade and cut the fur gently from the skin side. Cut through the skin carefully and separate the fur gently, pulling apart carefully. Do not cut down through the fur, only the skin.

5. If necessary, two or more pieces of fur can be joined with the use of a fine glover's needle. Make sure both pieces of fur are facing the same direction and stitch with a small overcast stitch. The join should be almost invisible.

Fastening the fur to the mukluk top:

1. Lay the upper mukluk on the table and draw a line across where you want the fur to lie. This can be done with tailer's chalk or a marking pencil.

2. Before making a final decision, manipulate the fur to see which direction will give you the most attractive effect. Sometimes the fur should face down and other times a better effect is achieved by having the fur face up.



3. Stitch one side of the fur only into place on the mukluk upper. Leave 1½" unstitched at both ends.

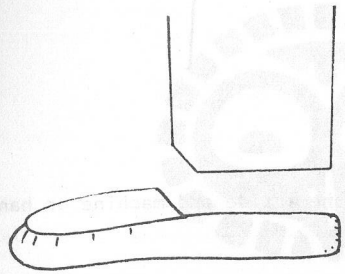
4. With right sides together, sew up the back seam of the mukluk uppers. Use the sewing machine for this, leave 3/8" seams and push the fur out of the way as you sew.

5. Turning the upper right side out, measure the fur until it is precisely the same size as the mukluk upper. Trim to fit and sew the two ends together with the glover's needle.

6. Stitch the other edge of the fur into place, if necessary. Some furs do not need to have the other edge stitched.

Attaching the upper mukluk to the base:

1. Before stitching the upper mukluk to the base, check the fit of the two pieces. Lay the upper and base on the table and measure one against the other.



If the upper is too wide, take the back seam in a little more.

If the upper is too small for the base, unpick the back seam and let it out a little.

The back seam of the upper can be used to fit the upper and the base as closely as possible.

2. Turn the upper outside in.

3. Placing right sides together, mark the centre front on the upper with a small chalk mark.

4. Take a strip of moosehide about 1/3" wide. Place this between the upper and the base and begin stitching together. They should match in size but if there is a slight fullness, then ease into place gently, as you did with the tongue.

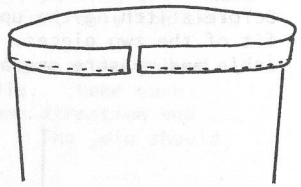
Note that the back seams on the upper and base should match. The corners of the triangular piece removed from the upper pattern should match the corners of the tongue on the base of the mukluk.

Completing the mukluks:

1. A lining should be cut to the same pattern as the upper mukluks. Seam up the back and place this inside the upper mukluk, wrong sides together. Match the back seams and pin into place.

2. Take a piece of binding - either a purchased or a prepared piece - in a matching or contrasting colour.

   This binding should be approximately 1½" wide. Begin stitching outside the mukluk, folding seams at the starting and finishing points.

   The opening left in the binding will be used for the laces. You may want to position this opening at either the front or the side of the mukluks.

3. Now fold the binding to the inside and machine or hand stitch into place.

Final finishing of the mukluks:

The pieces of moosehide strips that have been used as welting between the sole and the tongue and again between the upper and base van now be trimmed. These can be cut off flush with the mukluk by using a sharp pair of scissors and cutting carefully.

On the other hand, you may want to use pinking scissors to give an extra trim or hand cut triangular pieces or scalloped pieces could be cut from the moosehide strips.

A good, strong shoelace should be used to thread through the casing. This can be either purchased or could be made by braiding wool in matching or contrasting colours. Measure to make sure you have the correct length of lacing in place.

Left over pieces of fur can be used to make matching furry pom poms. If you do not have any left over pieces, try making either wolly pom poms, wooly tassels or leather tassels. (See section on Trims.)

Place the boot liner inside the mukluk. Sometimes these have to be folded and worked into place. The inside lining is left loose at the bottom end but it is tucked between the boot and the mukluk and stays in place very well.

The tucks may feel a little stiff at first but normal wear and body heat will soften the moosehide and the tucks.

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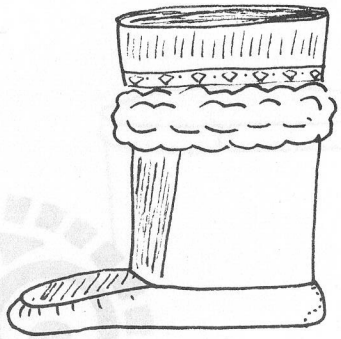
VARIATIONS ON BASIC MUKLUKS

With this one basic pattern, an endless number of variations are quickly and easily made. A few are listed here but many others are possible.

a) Two colour uppers:

Sometimes you have two pieces of melton cloth or stroud left in different colours. These can be used to form an attractive and different looking upper on the mukluks.



In this particular case, the top area of the upper, above the fur trim, and the strip down the centre front are done in one colour while the sides are done in another.

Follow the instructions given for the base of the mukluk. The pattern for the upper needs to be re done.

If you are working with a pattern from the Basic Mukluks, add 3/4" to the height and 3/4" to the width.

If you are cutting your attern from the beginning, measure the height of the mukluk upper and add 1" to this measurement. Measure around the fullest part of the leg and add 2" to this measurement.

Taking the paper pattern, measure approximately 3" from the top of the upper, add ½" for seams and cut the pattern apart.

Measure the width of the mukluk tongue. Add ½" seam allowance. Cut this from the centre front of the mukluk upper.

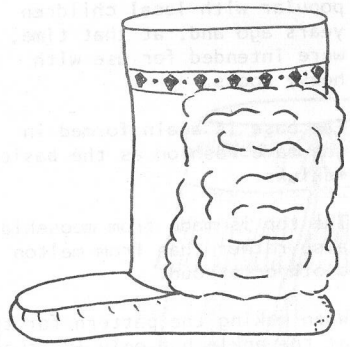
Mark each pattern piece to avoid error. Cut out in the colour of your choosing. There are combinations that are particularly pleasing such as the tongue and centre front in red with the sides in black or the tongue and centre front in beige with the sides in brown.

Stitch the upper together on the sewing machine.

Cover the upper seam with braid or fur and complete the mukluks as outlined previously.

b) Mukluks with fur sides:

Sometimes an old fur coat or even an imitation fur is available for the uppers.



In this case, it is used as the base part of the upper.

First check the fur over for flaws. Small rips or separations can be repaired with the glover's needle in the same manner as the rabbit fur was joined.

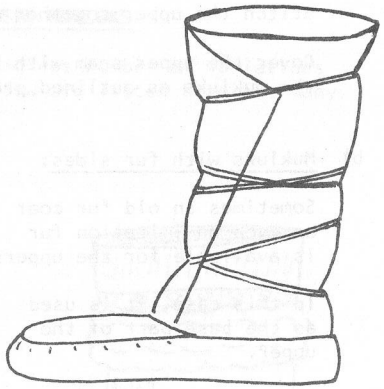
It is usually preferrable to join the fur to a base of melton cloth or stroud. Old fur coats in particular, sometimes have weak areas and will not lend themselves easily to the pull unless they have a firm backing. Some coats have a backing which can be used with the fur but again it should be checked for strength before proceeding further.

Form the mukluk base as outlined previously. Cut the sides of the mukluk upper from fur. Because of the shaping of the top, there will be two pieces of fur for each upper which will be sewn on the back seam.

Sew up the back seam of the upper. Sew up the back seam of the two fur pieces. Apply the fur to the mukluk upper.

Complete the mukluks as outlined earlier.

c) Mukluks with foldover top:



Foldover mukluks are a slightly different type of mukluk from the style currently popular. This type of mukluk was very popular with local children years ago and, at that time, were intended for use with heavy socks.

The base is again formed in the same fashion as the basic mukluks.

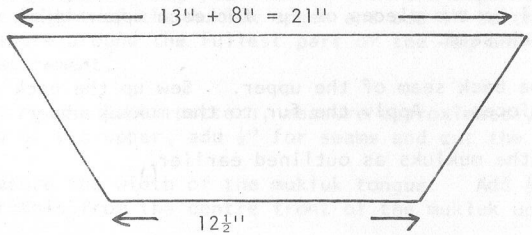
The top is made from moosehide also rather than from melton cloth or stroud.

When making the pattern for the upper, measurement is taken at the ankle but only $\frac{1}{2}$" is added for seams. (When stitching moosehide it is not necessary to leave more than $\frac{1}{4}$" seams.)

Measure around the ball of the leg and add 8" to this measurement. If this is for a smaller child, the 8" may need to be reduced a little.

Measure the height of the mukluk. This style of mukluk would normally extend to just under the knee.

Make a pattern for the upper, as per the sketch below.

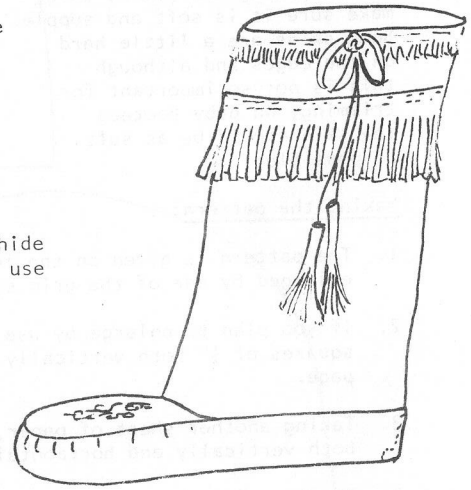


Stitch the back of the upper by hand and using the glover's needle and using a piece of moosehide as welting.

Join the upper to the mukluk base in the same manner as outlined previously, again using a strip of moosehide as a welting.

A long piece of thonging is needed to wrap around the mukluk now that it is completed. This is stitched into place right behind the heel and wound around the leg as shown in the sketch. A long leather shoelace is suitable because it can be pulled tighter than the thonging cut from moosehide.

d) Mukluks from moosehide:



If you have a lot of moosehide and a preference for the real thing, you may want to make the entire mukluk from moosehide.

Follow the directions as given for the Basic Mukluks.

Beading is difficult on moosehide so it is recommended that you use a small quilting needle and a simple geometric pattern.

When making a pattern for the uppers, seam allowance should be limited to $\frac{1}{2}$". There is no need to allow for the larger seams since moosehide is usually sewn close to the edge with a small overcast stitch.

If a fur trim is being used, follow the instructions given earlier. If you want a different type of trim, you might try the one shown in the sketch. Take a strip of moosehide 3" x the width of the upper. Cut slits in this strip 1/8" apart and $2\frac{1}{2}$" deep. The strip is fastened to the upper with the sewing machine and a leather needle and a double row of stitching $\frac{1}{4}$" apart is used.

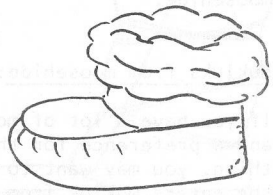
The casing can be formed in a similar fashion. Do not make seams or foldover seams when forming a casing from moosehide. Lay the strip of moosehide over the top of the mukluk and fasten with two rows of stitching. This casing can also be cut into slits to form a fringe trimming.

Leather tassels go well with these mukluks. See section on Trimmings for instructions on these.

BABY BOOTEES FROM RABBIT SKIN

Materials needed:

1. One large rabbit skin
2. Ribbon



When choosing the rabbit skin, make sure it is soft and supple. Some skins are a little hard on the edges and although this is not so important for trimming, on baby bootees the skin should be as soft as possible.

Making the pattern:

1. The pattern is given on the following page. It can be enlarged by use of the grid system.

2. If you plan to enlarge by use of the grid method, mark squares of ½" both vertically and horizontally on the pattern page.

3. Taking another sheet of paper, mark the same squares 1" size both vertically and horizontally.

4. Now transfer the pattern by drawing one square at a time from the pattern given to the larger squares.

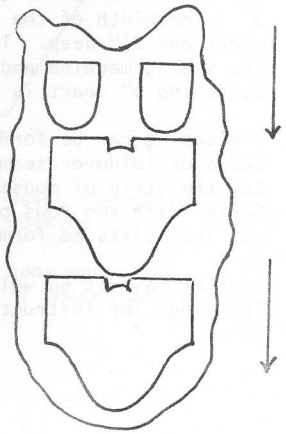
Forming the bootee:

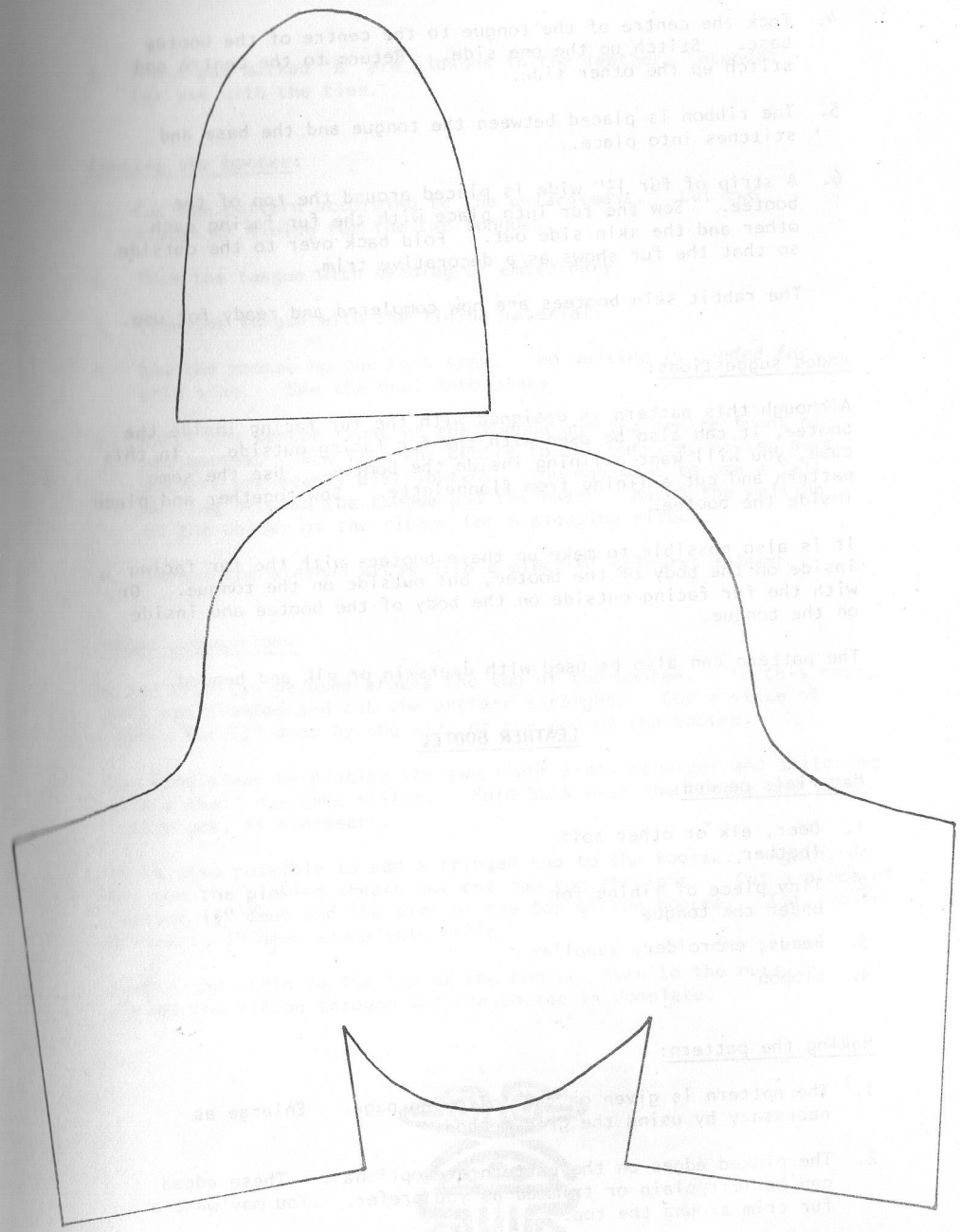
1. Cut the pattern according to the planned layout given.

   If you follow the layout given, the fur will all face the same direction.

2. Sew the back seams of the bootee, using a glover's needle and a small overcast stitch. No welting is used.

3. Sew the back of the heel, easing in any fullness.





4. Tack the centre of the tongue to the centre of the bootee base. Stitch up the one side. Return to the centre and stitch up the other side.

5. The ribbon is placed between the tongue and the base and stitches into place.

6. A strip of fur 1½" wide is placed around the top of the bootee. Sew the fur into place with the fur facing each other and the skin side out. Fold back over to the outside so that the fur shows as a decorative trim.

The rabbit skin bootees are now completed and ready for use.

Added suggestions:

Although this pattern is designed with the fur facing inside the bootee, it can also be used with the fur facing outside. In this case, you will want a lining inside the bootee. Use the same pattern and cut a lining from flannelette. Sew together and place inside the bootee.

It is also possible to make up these bootees with the fur facing inside on the body of the bootee, but outside on the tongue. Or, with the fur facing outside on the body of the bootee and inside on the tongue.

The pattern can also be used with deerskin or elk and beaded.

LEATHER BOOTEE

Materials needed:

1. Deer, elk or other soft leather
2. Tiny piece of lining for under the tongue
3. Beads, embroidery supplies
4. Ribbon

Making the pattern:

1. The pattern is given on the following page. Enlarge as necessary by using the grid method.

2. The pinked edges on the pattern are optional. These edges can be left plain or trimmed as you prefer. You may want a fur trim around the top.

3. The areas marked 'B' are slashes in the leather, intended for use with the ties.

Forming the bootee:

1. Cut the pattern according to the enlargement. Cut two pieces of lining for the two tongues.

2. Trim the tongue with beading or embroidery.

3. Line the tongue with the lining material.

4. Sew the bootee up the back seam. No welting is needed for this size. Sew the heel into place.

5. Match the centre front of the tongue and the centre front of the bootee. Sew from the centre to the outside, making sure gathers are evenly distributed. You may want to use a felt welting between the tongue and the base. Match the welting to the colour of the ribbon for a pleasing effect.

6. Thread the slashed areas with a piece of coloured ribbon.

Added suggestions:

A fur trim can be used around the top of the bootee. In this case, omit the pinking and cut the pattern straight. Cut a piece of rabbit fur 1½" deep by the size of the top of the bootee.

Sew into place by placing the two right sides together and stitching with a small overcast stitch. Fold back over the bootee and tack into place, if necessary.

It is also possible to add a fringed top to the bootee. Again, do not use the pinking shears but cut the top straight. Cut a piece of leather 1½" deep and the size of the top of the bootee. Cut slashes ¼" apart, 1" deep along this strip.

Fasten the strip to the top of the bootee, turn to the outside, thread the ribbon through and the bootee is complete.

SOCKS OR LINERS FOR MUKLUKS

Liners are often made for use with the mukluks in place of the felt boots or heavy socks. Sometimes these are more suitable for young children. These are usually made from duffle although any heavy, warm material can be used.

The pattern given can be enlarged or reduced as necessary to fit the required size.

Forming the Liners:

1. Cut out two tongues, soles and leggings from duffle or any heavy, warm material.
2. Sew the tongue to the sole, matching point A at the toe and points B at the sides. Gather or pleat the sole part so that it fits with the tongue.
3. Sew up the centre front seam of the leggings.
4. Stitch the legging to the base of the liner. Again, the sole will need gathering or pleating to ensure a proper fit.

Finishing the Liner:

1. Fold over the top and embroider with wool and simple embroidery stitches.
2. The embroidery can also be worked over the centre front seam and around the ankle area.

The liners are now ready for insertion into the mukluks.

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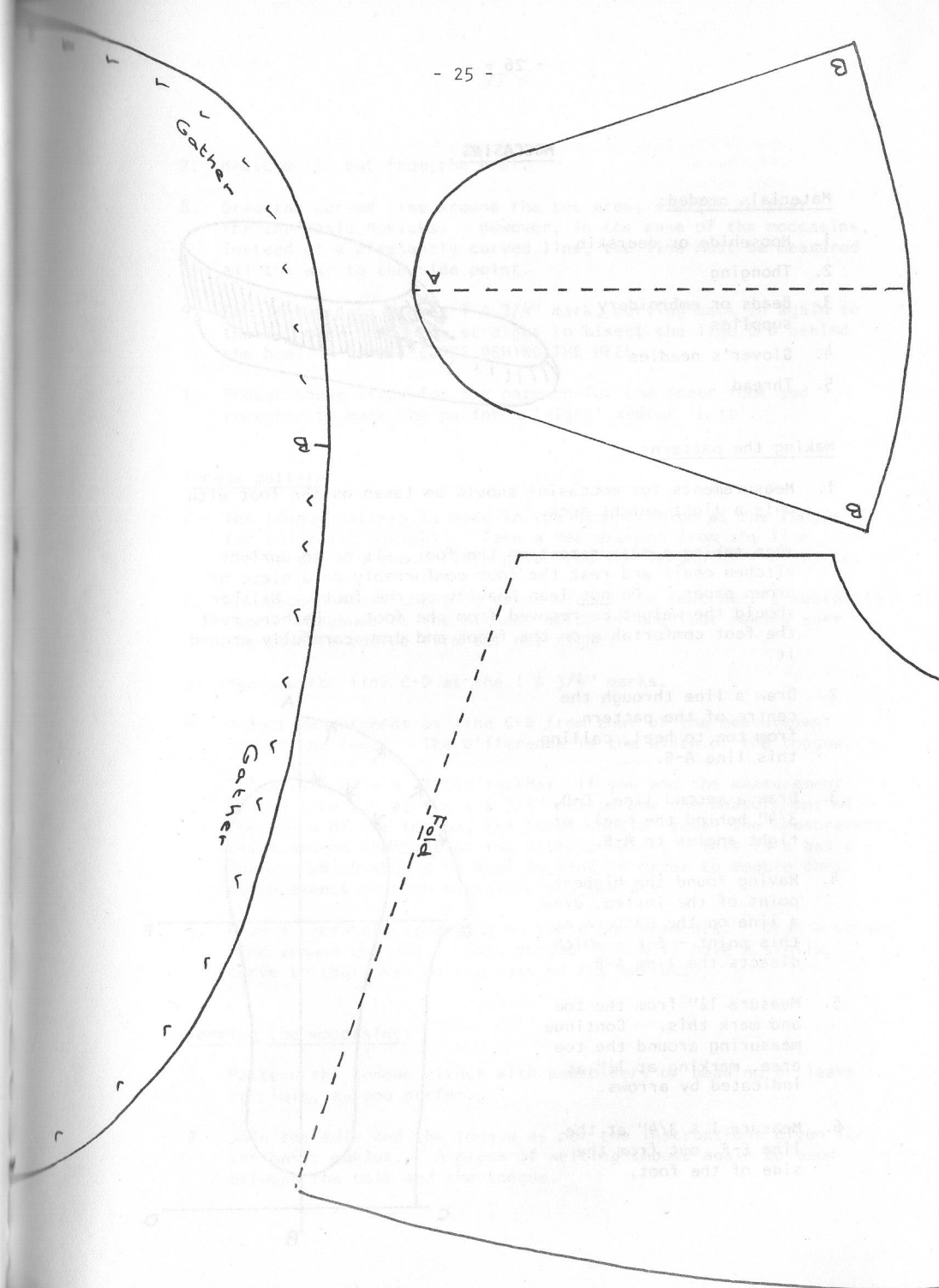
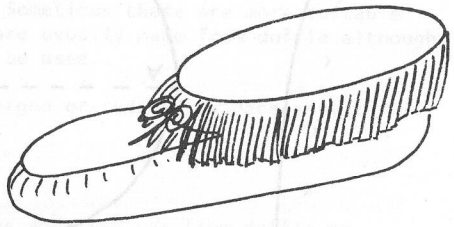


MOCCASINS

Materials needed:

1. Moosehide or deerskin
2. Thonging
3. Beads or embroidery supplies
4. Glover's needles
5. Thread



Making the pattern:

1. Measurements for moccasins should be taken on the foot with only a light weight sock.

   When taking a measurement on the foot, sit on an upright kitchen chair and rest the foot comfortably on a piece of brown paper. Do not lean heavily on the foot. Neither should the weight be removed from the foot. Rather, rest the foot comfortably on the floor and draw carefully around it.

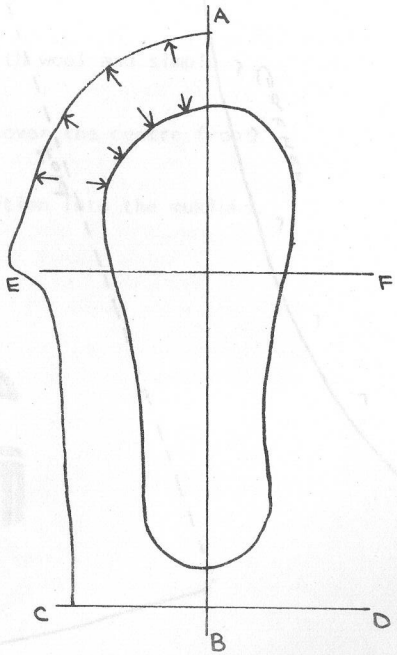
2. Draw a line through the centre of the pattern from toe to heel, calling this line A-B.

3. Draw a second line, C-D, 3/4" behind the heel, at right angles to A-B.

4. Having found the highest point of the instep, draw a line on the pattern at this point - E-F - which disects the line A-B.

5. Measure 1¼" from the toe and mark this. Continue measuring around the toe area, marking at 1¼" as indicated by arrows.

6. Measure 1 & 3/4" at the line E-F, out from the side of the foot.



7. Measure 1½" out from the heel.

8. Draw the curved line around the toe area, similar to that for the Basic Mukluks. However, in the case of the moccasins, instead of a pleasantly curved line, the line must be measured all the way to the side point.

9. The line widens at the 1 & 3/4" mark, curving back in again to the 1½" mark and going straight to bisect the line C-D behind the heel. DO NOT CURVE BEHIND THE HEEL.

10. Repeat these steps for the pattern for the other foot and remember to mark the patterns 'Right' and/or 'Left'.

Tongue pattern:

1. The tongue pattern is made in the same fashion as the tongue for the basic mukluks. Take a measurement from the line E-F to the big toe. This gives you the length of the tongue.

2. The second measurement is taken around the foot with a measuring tape. Measure at the highest point of the foot making sure the tape is pulled firm but not tight.

3. Measure the line C-D at the 1 & 3/4" marks.

4. Deduct measurement at line C-D from that of the measurement around the foot. The difference is the width of the tongue.

   To explain this a little further, if you add the measurement of the line E-F at the 1 & 3/4" points and the measurement of the width of the tongue, the total should equal the measurement taken around the foot at the highest point. This is a basic formula which should be kept in mind in order to double check measurements on both moccasins and mukluks.

5. Draw a rectangle according to these measurements. Draw a curved line around one end. This curved line will have a similar curve to that used on the base of the mukluks.

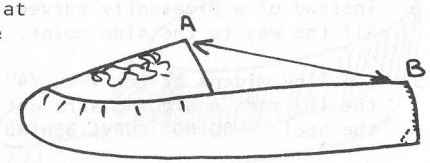
Forming the moccasins:

1. Pattern the tongue either with embroidery or beading or leave it plain, as you prefer.

2. Join the sole and the tongue as per the instructions given for the basic mukluk. A piece of welting should again be used between the sole and the tongue.

3. Sew the back seam, again according to instructions given for the mukluks. When the fit is measured in this case, make sure the moccasin is firm but that it is not so tight that the toes are pulled.

4. Lay the moccasin base flat on the table and measure from point A to point B, as per sketch.

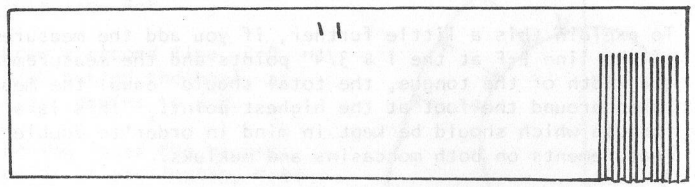


5. Take this measurement and multiply by two, add $\frac{1}{2}$" for seam allowance.

6. Cut a piece of moosehide the length you have just measured by 6" deep. This measurement will vary according to the type of moccasin wanted. The 6" high measurement will allow an ankle high moccasin whereas 3" deep will give more of a slipper type.

7. Sew the back seam with an overcast stitch.

8. Slash the strip of moosehide, $\frac{1}{4}$" apart, 2" deep, as per the sketch.



9. Two slashes should be cut in the front, each $\frac{1}{2}$" deep and $\frac{1}{2}$" apart to accommodate the thonging.

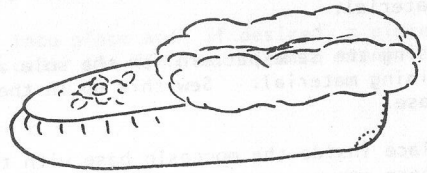
10. Sew this length of moosehide to the base of the moccasin, again in the same manner as that used for the mukluk.

11. The thonging is then placed under the strip, exiting on the two slashes. Some hidden stitches can be taken at the back and sides to hold the thonging in place.

MOCCASIN SLIPPERS

Materials needed:

1. Moosehide
2. Fur trim - two pieces, each approximately 14" x 5"
3. Beads and/or embroidery supplies
4. Glover's needles
5. Thread



Directions:

1. Follow the instructions given for the moccasins, eliminating the two pieces of moosehide 6" x 12".

2. When you have reached step 4. of 'Forming the moccasin', measure the distance around the top of the moccasin base.

3. Cut two pieces of fur, each 5" deep and the length measured around the moccasin base (plus the seam allowance).

   NOTE: A heavy type of fur can be used alone. However, if a light weight rabbit skin is used, it is sometimes a wise idea to back it with a piece of moosehide or melton cloth in order to give it some strength.

4. With the right sides together, sew up the back seam of the fur piece.

5. Stitch the fur pieces to the top of the moccasin base, with the fur facing the smooth inside of the moccasin base. Fold the fur in two so that it folds over the seam and your slippers are ready for use.

6. These can be decorated with beads and embroidery, if you wish. A piece of coloured felt can be used as welting between the sole and the tongue for added decoration.

LINING FOR MOCCASINS OR MOCCASIN SLIPPERS

There may be occasions where you will want to line the moccasins or the moccasin slippers.

Choose a warm lining material. Some of the new imitation sheepskin is very nice looking. Or, choose a warm flannelette or a fleecy material.

Using the same pattern for the sole and the tongue, cut from the lining material. Sew this up in the same fashion as the moccasin base.

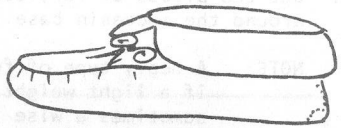
Place inside the moccasin base with the seamed areas facing so that there are no seams on the inside of the base.

Take a small stitching around the top of the base - just sufficient to hold the materials in place. Stitch the top into place just as you did without the lining. The lining is now fixed firmly into place.

INDIAN SLIPPERS

Materials needed:

1. Moosehide or deerskin
2. Beading or embroidery supplies
3. Glover's needles
4. Thread



Making the pattern:

The pattern is given here but it will be necessary to enlarge as necessary to suit the size required.

Cut the entire slipper from moosehide or deerskin.

Forming the slipper:

1. The flap of the slipper is embroidered or beaded as desired or left plain, according to choice.
2. Join seam A-B, placing right sides together, omitting the welting and using small, overcast stitches.

3. Join the side or upper to the sole around the toe area. Ease in any fullness.
4. Stitch the back seam from C - D.
5. Fold the heel into place and stitch carefully on the outside of the slipper.
6. The flap is folded down into place and, if desired, a piece of thonging can be used under the flap and tied in front.

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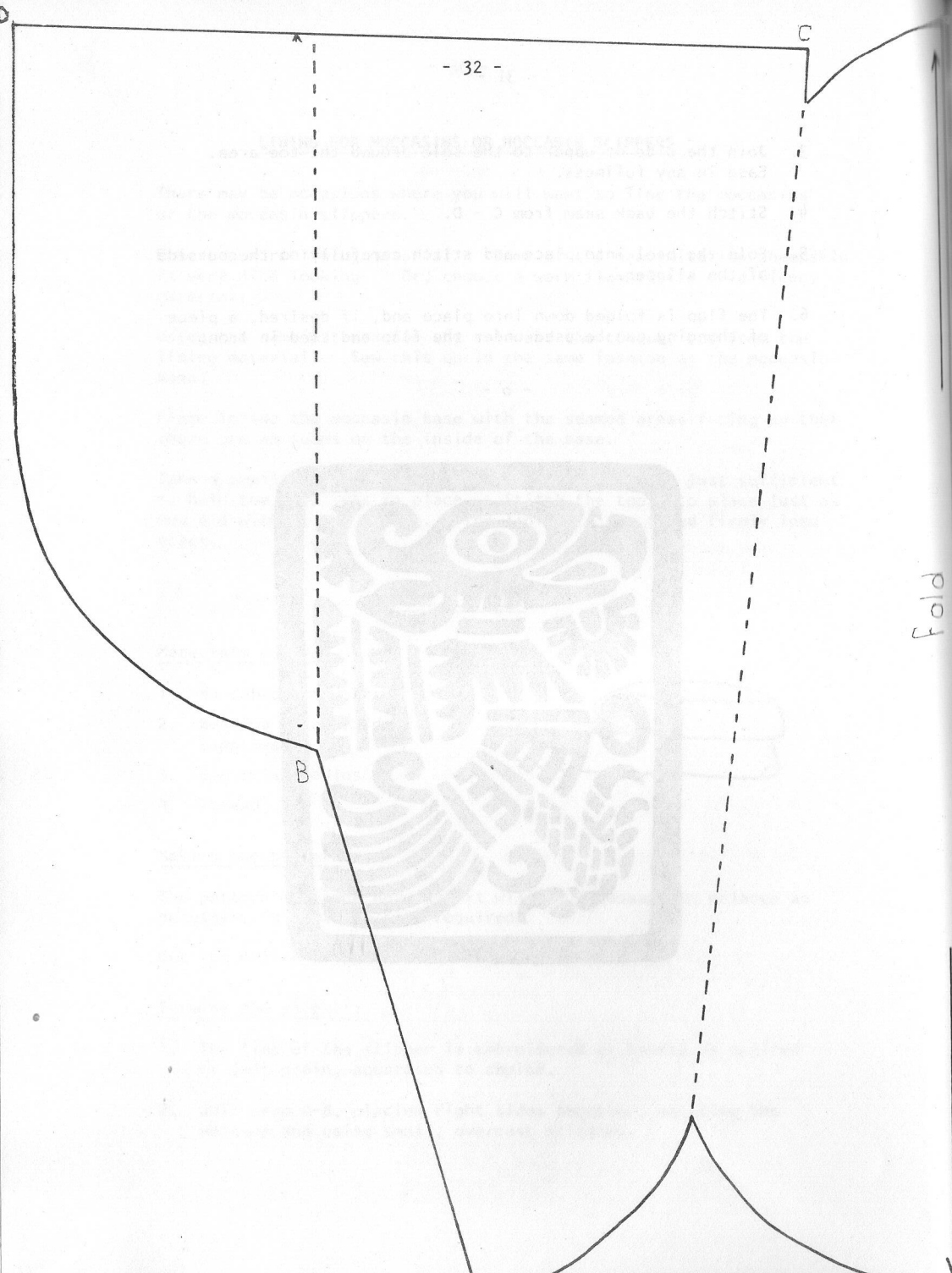


MITTENS

Although some mitten patterns are supplied, it is a good idea to know how to make your own and how to fit them to suit any size or kind of hand.

For that reason, the various steps in forming a mitten pattern are shown here. Although at first glance, this may seem quite involved, if one step is taken at a time no problems should be encountered.

1. Place the hand on the paper with the fingers spread slightly apart.

2. Taking a pencil in hand, making sure it is held in the upright position, draw around the hand. Go up the wrist about 1" to make sure the mitten is long enough.

3. Measure ½" from the tops of the fingers and down each side of the hand. Join these marks to form the mitten outline, as shown on the sketch.

4. Draw a line across the hand, just above the thumb area, from point A to point B, as per sketch.

5. Draw a line through the longest part of the hand, dissecting the first line, from point C to point D.

6. On line A-B, at point E, as per illustration, measure the distance to the longest part of the thumb (point F).

7. Swing the tape down, staying in line with the line formed by the index finger, measure this same distance and mark it off.

8. Add to this ½" and mark again.

9. Starting at the intersections of lines A-B and C-D, draw a curved line through point H to the outside edge of the pattern.

10. Starting again at point H, take this same line up to point B.

11. Cut out and discard the shaded area, as shown in the sketch.

12. Cut around the thumb area from point H to the intersection of A-B and C-D.

13. Fold the thumb piece up towards the top of the pattern.

Making the pattern:

1. The pattern used is the one that has just been prepared. Check the wrist area to make sure the pattern is long enough.

Forming the mittens:

1. The front, back and thumb are all cut from moosehide or deerskin.

2. Sew the thumb into place by starting at the top of the thumb and sewing one side then returning again to the starting point and sewing the other side.

3. Sew the front to the back, again starting at the centre front and stitching down one side, returning to the centre point and stitching the other side.

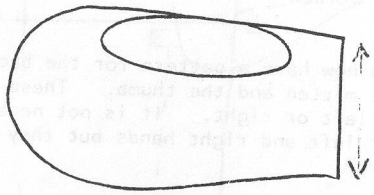
4. Cut the lining from the same pattern and stitch together in the same way.

5. Place the lining inside the mitten with the seamed sides facing and the smooth side of the lining towards the hand.

6. Stitch the lining and the mitten together in order to hold them in place.

7. Lay the mitten flat on the table.

   Measure across the wrist opening. Add $\frac{1}{4}$" for seams.



8. Cut a strip of rabbit fur 2" deep and the length measured above.

9. Sew up the one end of the rabbit fur with a glover's needle and a small overcast stitch.

10. With the fur facing the lining of the mitten, stitch into place around the wrist area.

    Fold the fur back over to the outside and the mitten is complete. You may want to stitch down the other edge of the rabbit fur.

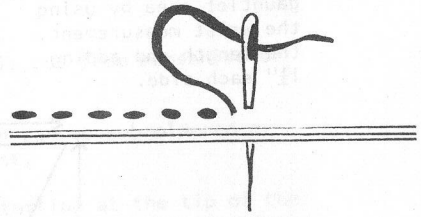
VARIATIONS ON MITTENS

a) Mittens lined with rabbit:

Follow the directions given with the exception that the lining, made of rabbit fur, should be cut $1\frac{1}{2}$" longer than the outside mitten.

Insert the rabbit fur lining with the fur facing towards the hand. Fold the $1\frac{1}{2}$" back over to the outside of the mitten and stitch into place.

b) Mittens made from Sheepskin:



Sheepskin makes very warm mittens either for children or for those who work outdoors during the winter months.

These are cut from the sheepskin using the pattern outlined.

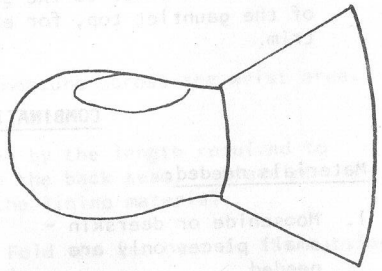
No lining is needed since the sheepskin will face the inside.

Where the other mittens were stitched on the inside, sheepskin mittens are stitched on the outside by placing the fur face to face.

Stitch around the mittens by using a 'stab' stitch, making sure it is pulled quite firmly each time.

By cutting the wrist area a little longer - $1\frac{1}{2}$", these can also be folded back to show the sheepskin lining.

c) Gauntlet mittens:



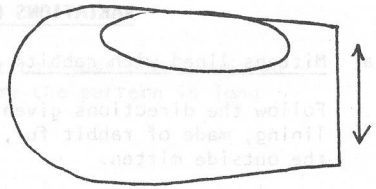
Another popular style has the very large cuff area which is worn over top of the jacket.

This style is well suited to beading or decoration on the large cuff.

Use the same pattern and cut from moosehide or deerskin.

Stitch the mitten together, the lining and insert the lining into the mitten, stitching around the wrist area.

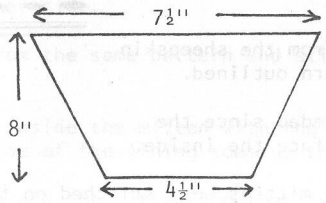
Laying the mitten flat on the table, measure across the wrist area. Add ½" to this measurement.



Measure the length of the cuff - how far up the arm it will be worn. Note the measurement.

Make a pattern for the gauntlet area by using the wrist measurement, the length and adding 1½" each side.

Wrist	=	4½"
Length	=	8"
Upper end	=	7½"



Stitch each side of the gauntlet top.

Fasten to the mitten by placing right sides together and stitching around the wrist area with a small, overcast stitch.

A small piece of fringing can also be added to the side of the gauntlet top, for extra trim.

COMBINATION MITTENS

Materials needed:

1. Moosehide or deerskin - small pieces only are needed
2. Melton cloth or duffle
3. Lining material

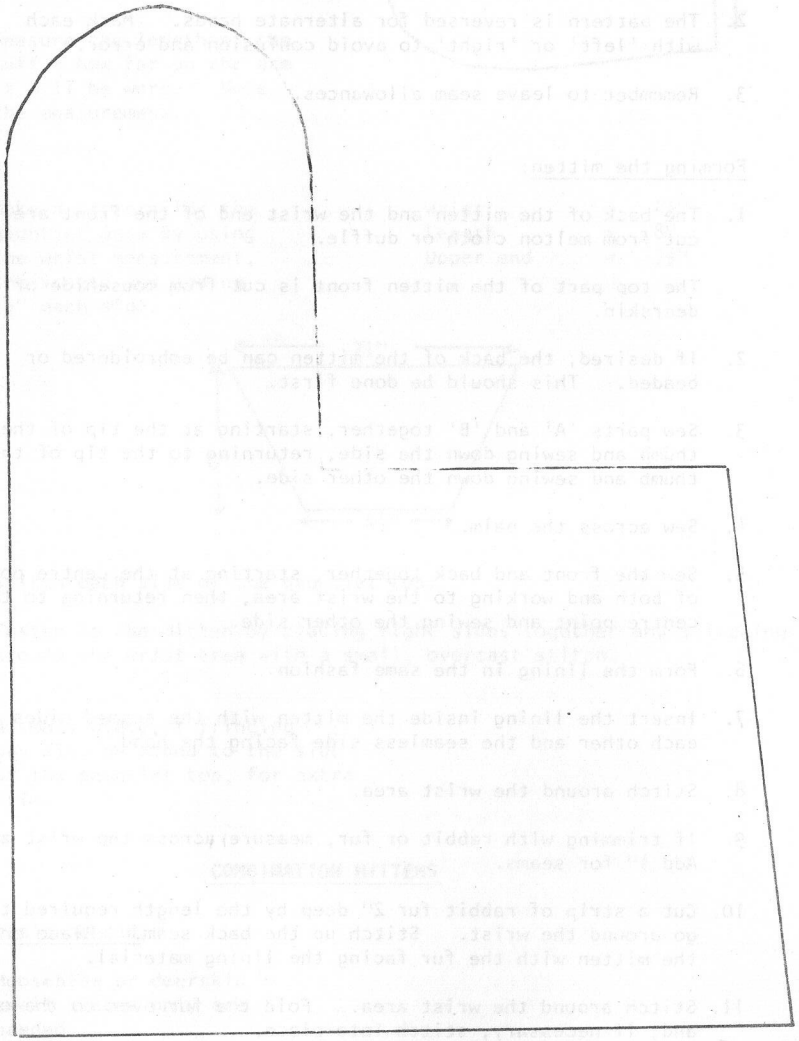
Making the pattern:

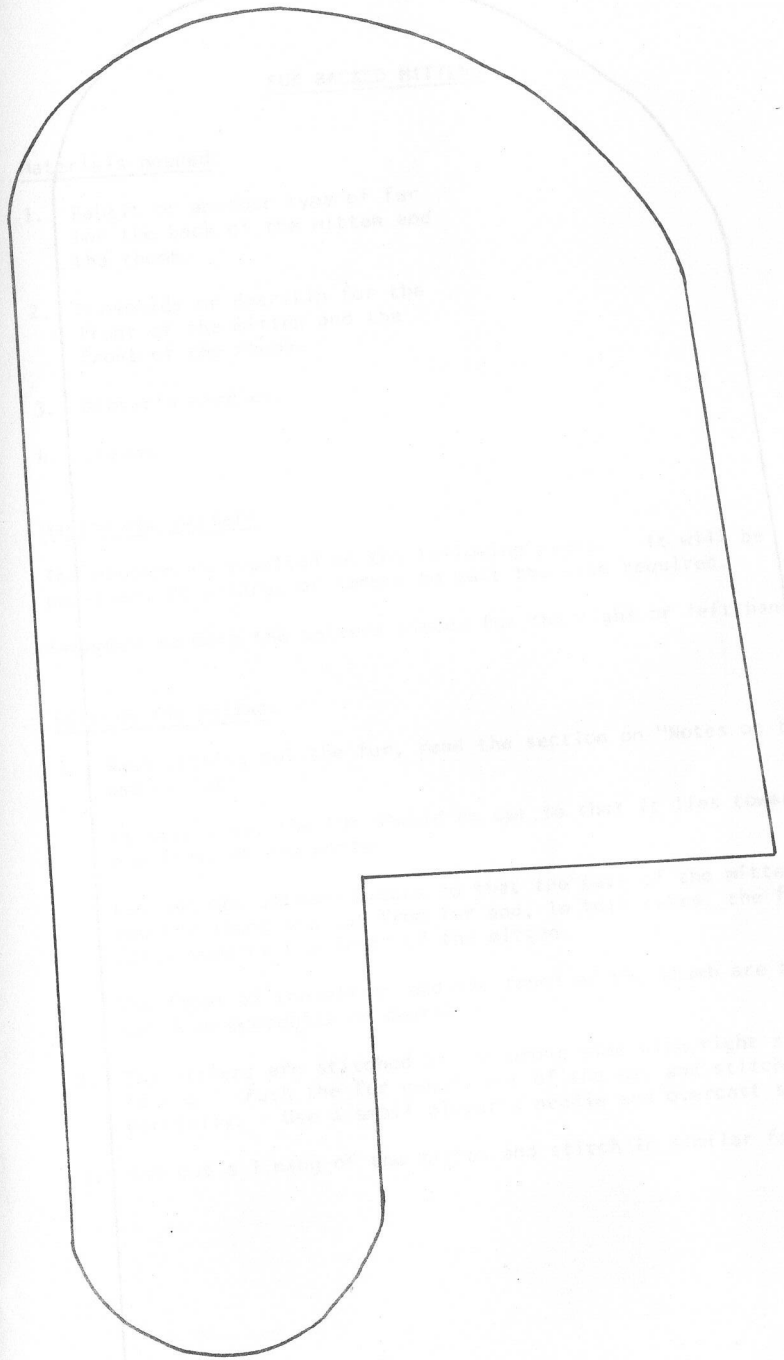
1. Follow the pattern given but adjust according to the size of the mitten required.
2. The pattern is reversed for alternate hands. Mark each with 'left' or 'right' to avoid confusion and error.
3. Remember to leave seam allowances.

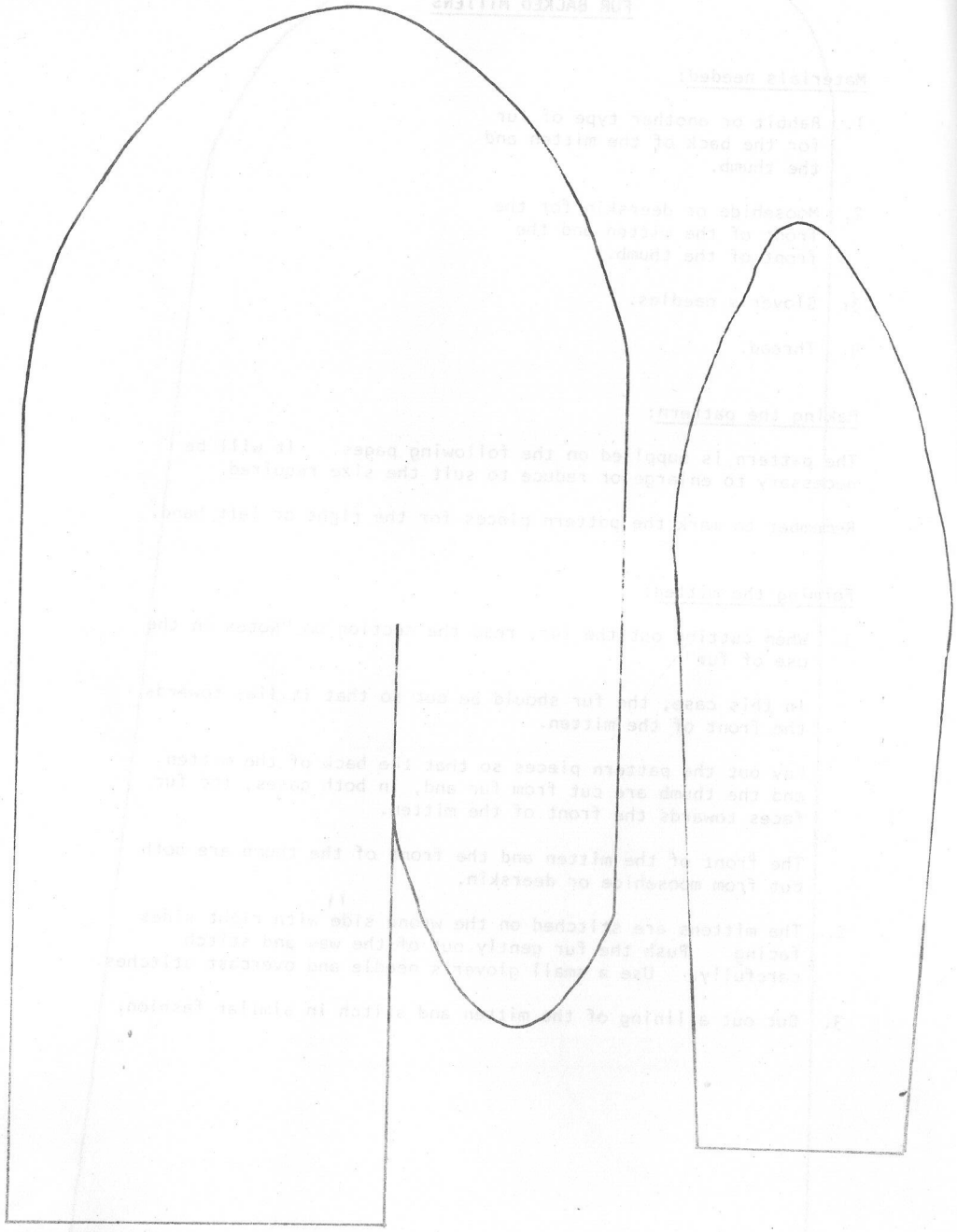
Forming the mitten:

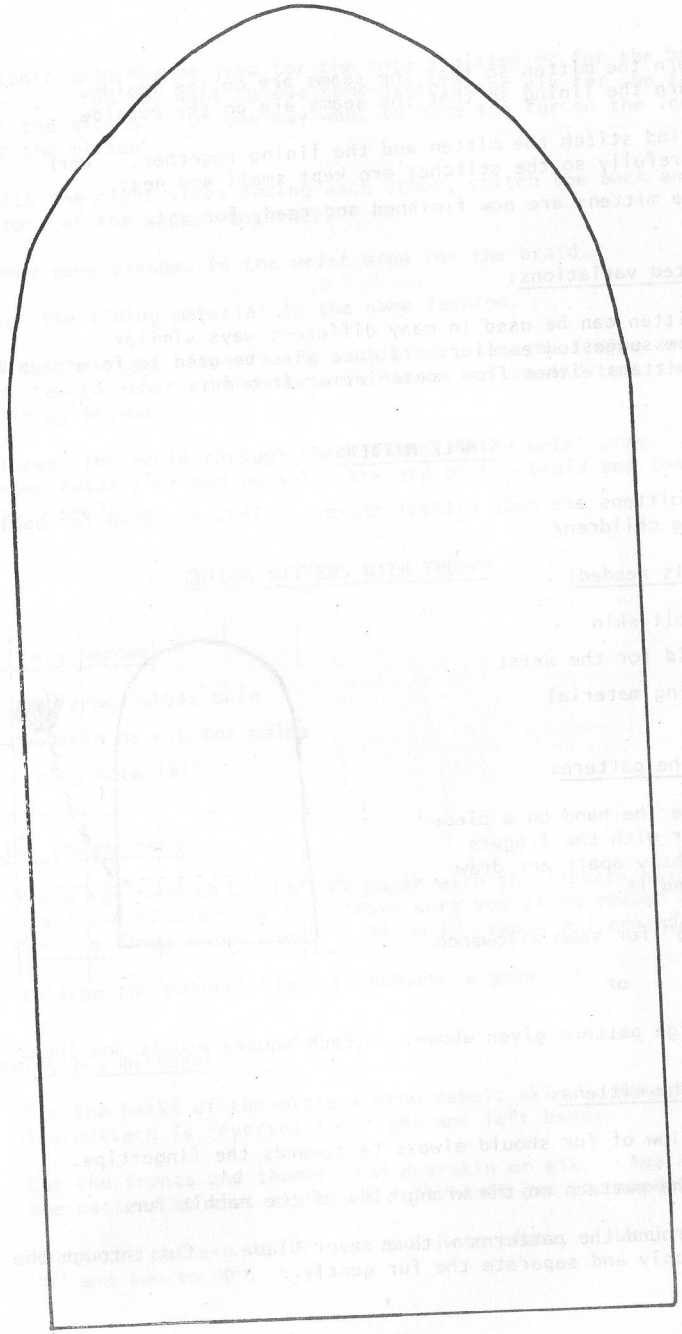
1. The back of the mitten and the wrist end of the front are cut from melton cloth or duffle.

   The top part of the mitten front is cut from moosehide or deerskin.
2. If desired, the back of the mitten can be embroidered or beaded. This should be done first.
3. Sew parts 'A' and 'B' together, starting at the tip of the thumb and sewing down the side, returning to the tip of the thumb and sewing down the other side.
4. Sew across the palm.
5. Sew the front and back together, starting at the centre point of both and working to the wrist area, then returning to the centre point and sewing the other side.
6. Form the lining in the same fashion.
7. Insert the lining inside the mitten with the seamed sides facing each other and the seamless side facing the hand.
8. Stitch around the wrist area.
9. If trimming with rabbit or fur, measure across the wrist area. Add ½" for seams.
10. Cut a strip of rabbit fur 2" deep by the length required to go around the wrist. Stitch up the back seam. Place on the mitten with the fur facing the lining material.
11. Stitch around the wrist area. Fold the fur over to the outside and, if necessary, stitch into place.









4. Turn the mitten so that the seams are on the inside. Turn the lining so that the seams are on the outside.

5. Blind stitch the mitten and the lining together. Work carefully so the stitches are kept small and neat.

The mittens are now finished and ready for use.

Suggested variations:

This mitten can be used in many different ways similar to those suggested earlier. It can also be used to form gauntler style mittens either from moosehide or from fur.

SIMPLE MITTENS

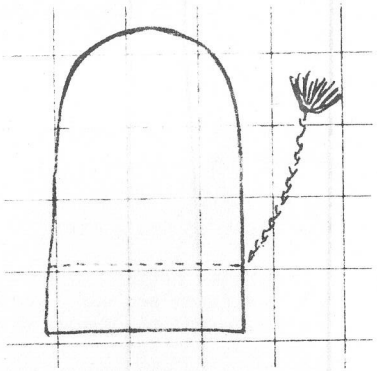
Simple mittens are made without thumbs. They are used for babies or young children/

Materials needed:

1. Rabbit skin
2. Braid for the wrist
3. Lining material

Making the pattern:

1. Place the hand on a piece paper with the fingers slightly apart and draw around it.
2. Add ½" for seam allowance



or

Enlarge pattern given above. (Each square equals one inch.

Forming the mittens:

1. The flow of fur should always be towards the fingertips.
2. Lay the pattern on the wrong side of the rabbit fur.
3. Cut around the patterns with a razor blade. Cut through the skin only and separate the fur gently.

4. Rabbit skin may be used for the entire mitten or for the back only. You may want to use some deerhide or elk for the front of the mitten. Or you may want to have the fur on the inside of the mitten.
5. With the right sides facing each other, stitch the back and front of the mitten together.
6. Make sone slashes in the wrist area for the braid.
7. Sew the lining material in the same fashion.
8. With the right sides facing each other, sew the lining and the mitten together around the wrist area. Turn and tuck the lining inside.
9. Thread the braid through the slashes in the wrist area. Form some tassels or pom poms for the end of the braid and the mittens are complete.

CHILDS MITTENS WITH THUMBS

Materials needed:

1. One large rabbit skin
2. Deerskin or elk for palms
3. Lining material

Making the pattern:

1. Place the hand on a piece of paper with the fingers slightly apart and draw around it. Make sure you allow enough length for the fingers and thumb. Allow ½" seams all around.
2. Enlarge the pattern given to achieve a good fit.

Forming the mittens:

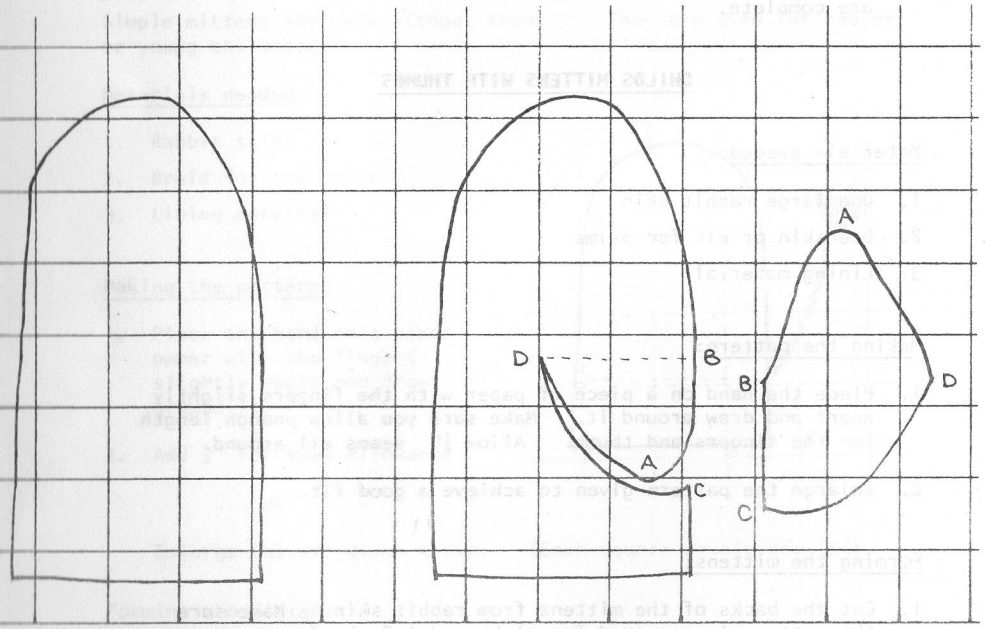
1. Cut the backs of the mittens from rabbit skin. Make sure the pattern is reversed for right and left hands.
2. Cut the fronts and thumbs from deerskin or elk. Again reverse the pattern so that right and left hands are accommodated.
3. Match the pattern at "A" and tack into place. Match again at "C" and sew to "D".

4. Sew the thumb into place by sewing from "A" to "B" and from "A" to "D". Turn thumb into place.

5. Tack the back and palm together. Sew from the fingertips to the wrist area. Return and sew the other side.

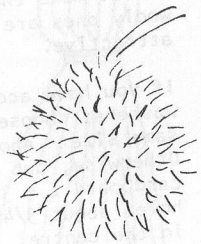
6. Cut and sew the lining in a similar fashion.

7. Turn the mitten and the lining wrong side out. Stitch around the wrist area. Tuck the lining inside the mitten and the mitten is ready for use.



TRIMMINGS

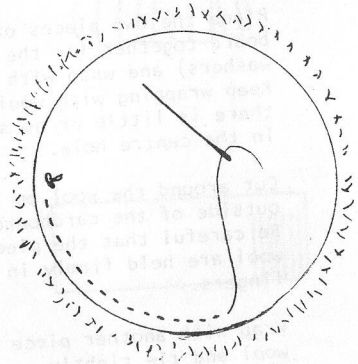
a) Furry Pom Poms



If you have any left over fur you will want to make some furry pom poms for your mukluks.

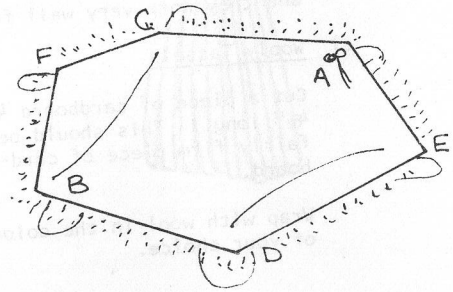
There are two ways in which this can be accomplished.

If you have pieces about 4" square in size, then cut circles $3\frac{1}{2}$" - 4" in diameter.



With the glover's needle and thread, run a running stitch along the outside edge of the circle. Pull the thread tight and you will have a furry pom pom. Stitch to one end of the shoe lace or braid.

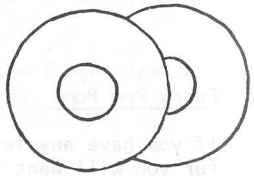
If the pieces of fur left over are smaller and more irregular in size, try trimming these so that they are approximately 3" x 3". They can be 2" x $3\frac{1}{2}$" or $2\frac{1}{2}$" x 4". These pieces can be four sided or five or six sided.



Take a glover's needle and a length of thread, knotted.

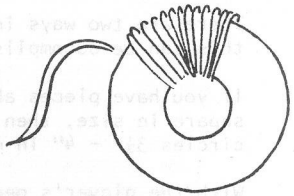
Take a stitch at one corner. Cross to the opposite corner. Take another stitch. Continue crossing and taking up the corners until you have a satisfactory pom pom. The shoe lace should also be stitched into place.

b) Wooly Pom Poms

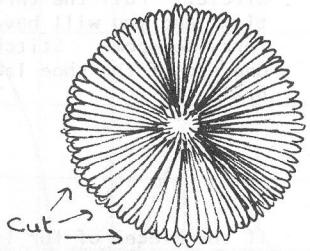


If you do not have sufficient fur to make the furry pom poms, wooly ones are also very attractive.

If you have access to metal washers, choose two of the same size - about 2" across. Otherwise, cut two pieces of cardboard 2 - 3" across with holes about 3/4" in diameter in the centre.



Place the two pieces of cardboard together (or the metal washers) and wrap with wool. Keep wrapping with wool until there is little or no space in the centre hole.



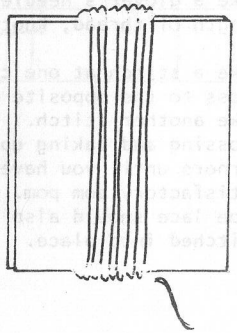
Cut around the wool on the outside of the cardboard. Be careful that the piece of wool are held firmly in the fingers.

Wrap with another piece of wool and tie tightly. (I often tie with the braid used for lacing.) Pull the cardboard or washers away and you have a pom pom.

Trim up any longer ends of wool and the pom pom is complete.

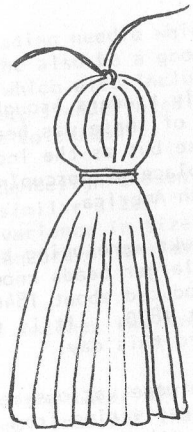
These wooly pom poms can be made in any size to suit any age and they work very well for the baby moccasins.

c) Wooly Tassels



Cut a piece of cardboard 4 - $4\frac{1}{2}$" long. This should be a fairly firm piece of cardboard.

Wrap with wool in the colour of your choice.



Gather and knot the yarn at the top of the cardboard.

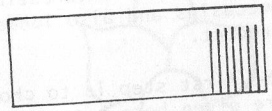
Slip the tassel off the cardboard and cut the yarn on the opposite end.

Trim so that all ends are even.

The tassel is now ready for use with the mukluks.

If, however, you want an added trim, the top of the tassel can be stitched with a buttonhole stitch in a contrasting colour.

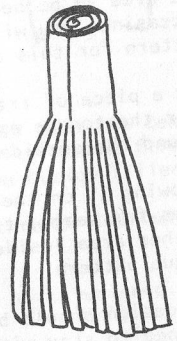
d) Leather tassels



These are particularly good if you are making moosehide mukluks.

Cut a strip of leather about 3" x 5".

Cut strips in this strip of leather $\frac{1}{4}$" apart and $2\frac{1}{2}$" deep. This leaves $\frac{1}{2}$" border along the top edge.



Insert the shoe lace or braiding and roll up the tassel along the border edge. Stitch through all layers several times and the tassel is complete.

BEADWORK

Early traders brought many things to trade with the Indians. One of these was beads. At first there were only a few of these but as the Indians discovered how the beads could be used in place of porcupine quills, more and more were imported into North America.

Mowawks were using beads as early as 1616 although these were the larger beads known as 'pony beads'. The seed bead was first introduced about 1840 with a slightly larger version appearing about 1870. It is this larger version or seed bead that we use to this day.

There were various methods used for beading. Designs and patterns varied from area to area. Some used floral patterns while others were more geometric. Some beaded directly while others used the loom. Some combined several methods. Because there are several books on the market which demonstrate the use of the bead loom, such instructions have not been included here.

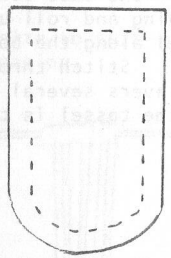
Beading is an interesting way in which to trim the mukluks or moccasins and also lends an authentic touch to the finished product.

The first step is to choose an interesting design. Some examples are given here but others might be found in embroidery books, clothing patterns, patterned materials or you might want to draw your own. It is suggested that for an initial project, curved or flowing lines are easier to handle than geometric designs.

The area to be beaded must be kept in mind. For mukluks or moccasins, you will want to bead the tongue and you already have a pattern for this area.

Lay a piece of tracing paper over the tongue and trace around the outside.

Allowing ½" on the outside edges for seams, trace another area inside the tongue pattern.



The design should be planned to stay within the inside area outlined.

Using this as a template, work out a suitable design for the mukluks.

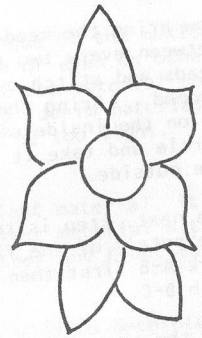
The first item of equipment required is a beading needle which is available in most supply stores. It might also be a good idea to choose a package of beading needles which also includes a needle threader. Beading needles are long, slender needles with very fine eyes which can be troublesome to thread.

A variety of coloured beads, suitable for the design chosen, will also be needed. Try to choose beads of a similar size. You will find that even the small beads have a variance in size which can distort the design. If the beads chosen are of a similar size, this problem can be avoided.

Polyester thread should be of a colour that matches the background material.

The next step is to transfer the design to the material. There are various ways in which this can be accomplished but the method outlined here is one of the simplest for the materials being used.

Having chosen a design, outline it carefully with a fine tip, black felt pen and tracing paper.



Place the design over the tongue of the mukluk, making sure the design is centred and that it does not extend over the seam allowance.

Baste the design into place.

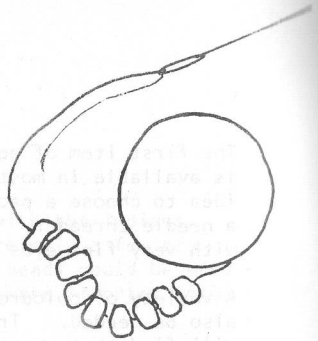
If necessary, reverse the design for the other mukluk. This can be done by tracing over the wrong side of the design.

As a general rule, the design should be worked from the centre to the outside edge. In this case, the ourline is worked first, the tracing paper removed and the remainder of the design filled in.

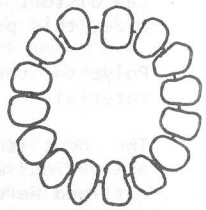
Prepare the beading needle with a strand of thread, doubled and knotted.

Some small dishes to hold the beads are also a convenience.

Bring the needle up at the starting point which should be the beginning of a row of beads. In this case it is the centre part of the flower.

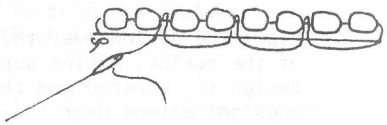


Thread a suitable number of beads on the beading needle. The beads must cover the outlined area. Push the beads to the material and, using the thumb of your left hand, place the beads on the outline of the centre of the flower. There should be just barely enough beads to cover the outline.

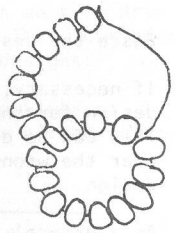


Take the needle down again.

Now bring the needle up between every two to three beads and stitch over the thread. Bring the needle up on the inside of the circle and take it down on the outside.



The next step is to outline the petals of the flowers. Work A-B first then follow with B-C.



Use the same method outlined to first lay the beads into place, then stitch between every two to three beads to fasten firmly into place.

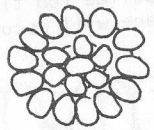
One of the problems often encountered is that too many beads have been threaded on the needle, pushing and crowding the other beads out of line.

In this case, the solution is to take a pair of needle nosed pliers and break away the one or two beads too many.

When the petals have been outlined, the next step is to outline the leaves which are done in a similar fashion to the petals.

When all areas have been outlined, tear away tear away the tracing paper that remains. One of the values in using this method is that it allows a little extra space between the bead and the material and thus the beads lie a little more smoothly.

When the tracing paper has been removed, return to the centre of the flower and complete the beading.



Follow the outline of the pattern to place the beads.

Move to the petals and complete filling these in also.

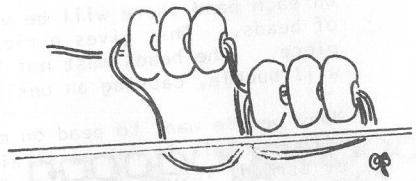
Then on to the leaves.

Beading can be used for decoration on the tongue of the mukluk or moccasin, the upper of the mukluk or moccasin or even on other items of clothing. It is, however, important that the material be heavy enough to carry the beading. For example, a denim material will carry it very well where a silk jersey would be too light. A stretch material is not suitable for beadwork.

If you particularly want to bead a light weight material, it is possible to do this by backing the light weight material with a heavier one. Then use both materials together and bead, using the method outlined.

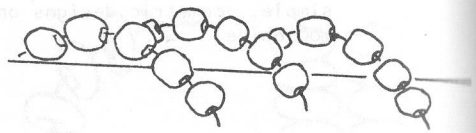
A number of other beading techniques can be used to decorate either mukluks or clothing.

When an article requires that the beads remain very firmly in place - or where there is a long line to be beaded - the 'return' stitch can be used.



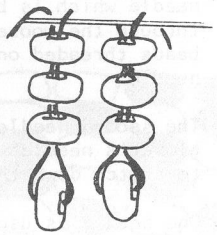
In this case, the needle is brought up and six beads are threaded. Take the needle down and bring it up again at the half way point. Take the needle through three of the beads already stitched, add three more and take it down again.

Another method of edging or adding an extra trim. In this case, each series of five beads overlaps on the next.

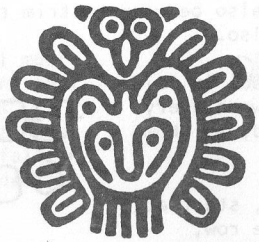


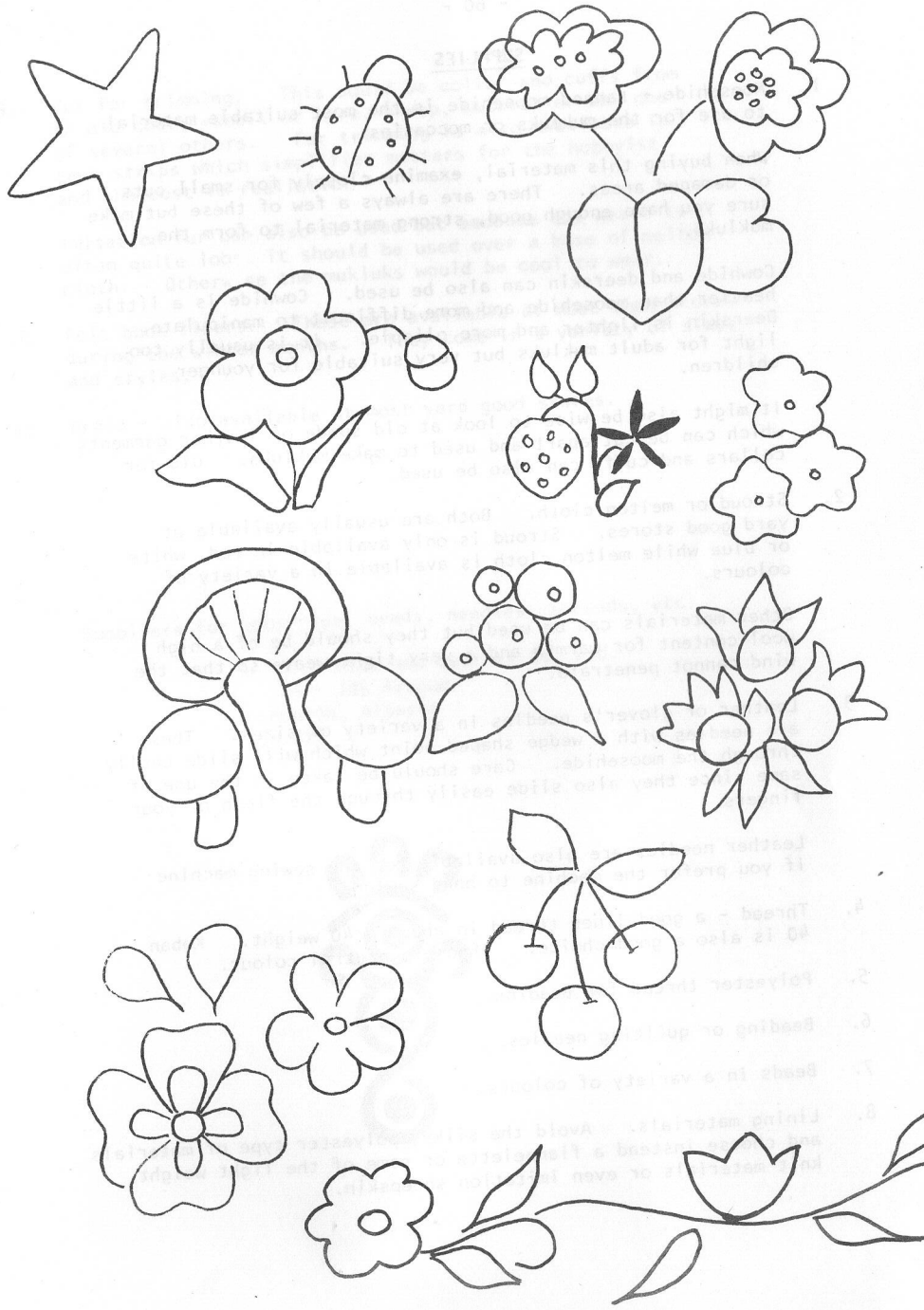
This same method can be used with three beads or even seven beads.

A sample of the way in which you can edge or trim the uppers is shown here.



There can be many elaborations on the designs and patterns shown here. Try mixing the colours, adding beads or subtracting them until you have a pleasing effect.





SUPPLIES

1. Moosehide - tanned moosehide is the most suitable material to use for the mukluks or moccasins.

   When buying this material, examine closely for small cuts or damaged areas. There are always a few of these but make sure you have enough good, strong material to form the mukluks.

   Cowhide and deerskin can also be used. Cowhide is a little heavier than moosehide and more difficult to manipulate. Deerskin is lighter and more pliable. It is usually too light for adult mukluks but very suitable for younger children.

   It might also be wise to look at old suede or leather garments which can be cut apart and used to make mukluks. Old fur collars and cuffs can also be used.

2. Stroud or melton cloth. Both are usually available at yard good stores. Stroud is only available in red, white or blue while melton cloth is available in a variety of colours.

   Other materials can be used but they should be of a high wool content for warmth and a very tight weave so that the wind cannot penetrate.

3. Leather or glover's needles in a variety of sizes. These are needles with a wedge shaped point which will slide easily through the moosehide. Care should be taken in the use of same since they also slide easily through the flesh of your fingers.

   Leather needles are also available for the sewing machine if you prefer the machine to hand sewing.

4. Thread - a good linen thread in about a 40 weight. Koban 40 is also a good choice. Choose a neutral colour.

5. Polyester thread for beading.

6. Beading or quilting needles.

7. Beads in a variety of colours.

8. Lining materials. Avoid the silky, polyester type of materials and choose instead a flannelette or some of the light weight knit materials or even imitation sheepskin.

9. Fur for trimming. This could be collar and cuffs from an old coat, rabbit or hare, sheep, muskrat or any one of several others. Fur trimming is also available in sewn strips which simplifies matters for the hobbyist and the cost is realistic.

   Imitation fur can also be used but because the weave is often quite loose it should be used over a base of melton cloth. Otherwise the mukluks would be cool to wear.

10. Felt boot liners. These are available at most shoe stores during the winter months. They come in a variety of sizes and styles.

11. Braid - also available at most yard good stores.

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Suppliers for moosehide, beads, needles, threads, etc:

H[illegible]d Hide and Leather Co. Ltd.
[illegible]23 - 105 Avenue
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5H 3X7